

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02893 241259Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 DHA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-05  
L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 /063 W  
-----032619 241301Z /53

O R 241204Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9189

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 2893

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, TU

SUBJ: BOMBS AT ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE

1. MORNING PRESS AUGUST 24 REPORTS THAT BOMBS EXPLODED AT ARMENIAN PATRIARCHAGE IN ISTANBUL DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF PREVIOUS DAY. CONGEN OFFICERS INSPECTED DAMAGE TODAY. THERE WERE THREE SEPARATE EXPLOSIONS. ALL WERE APPARENTLY SMALL HAND BOMBS THROWN FROM THE STREET ONE INTO THE COURTYARD IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN, ONE IN FRONT OF AN ADJOINING ARMENIAN SCHOOL AND ONE INTO THE GARDEN OF THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH'S RESIDENCE ACROSS THE STREET. THE CHURCH WAS UNDAMAGED. SEVERAL WINDOWS IN THE SCHOOL WERE BROKEN AND ALL WINDOWS IN A SMALL BUILDING ATTACHED TO ENTRANCE GATE ON SIDE WHERE EXPLOSIVE LANDED WERE SHATTERED. AT PATRIARCH'S RESIDENCE, WE OBSERVED AT LEAST TWO BROKEN WINDOWS. BUILDING APPEARED OTHERWISE UNTOUCHED. PATRIARCH KALOUSTIAN WAS NOT IN ISTANBUL AT TIME OF EXPLOSIONS. WE WERE INFORMED AT COMPOUND THAT HE WAS AT HIS RESIDENCE ON PRINCES ISLANDS IN MARMARA SEA.

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2. COMMENT: PATRIARCHATE COMPOUND IS LOCATED ABOUT A BLOCK FROM VERY LARGE POLICE STATION. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY SENSITIVE TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING PATRIARCHATE AND SECURITY IN AREA IS USUALLY VERY GOOD. APPARENTLY, INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING ONE OF ISTANBUL'S VERY FREQUENT ELECTRICAL BLACK-OUTS. THIS ATTACK AGAINST ARMENIAN FACILITIES IN

ISTANBUL IS TO OUR KNOWLDEGE FIRST IN MANY YEARS. POLICE REPORTEDLY HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE, BUT BOMBINGS OCCURRED IN WAKE OF SERIES OF ARTICLES CARRIED BY GUNAYDIN, ONE OF TURKEY'S MOST POPULAR DAILIES, ABOUR ARMENIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. SERIES EMPHASIZED ANTI-TURKISH ACTIVITIES OF THESE GROUPS. (EMBASSY IS REPORTING ON ARTICLES BY SEPTEL) BOMBINGS ALSO COULD HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY MOTIVATED BY MAY 29 BOMBINGS, APPARENTLY BY ARMENTIAN TERRORIST GROUP, OF ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ONE OF CITY'S PRINCIPAL TRAIN STATIONS.

HOUGHTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, BOMB DAMAGE, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SHUM, TU  
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**Review Markings:**  
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